IN THE DRAWINGS:

Enclosed are Replacement Sheets representing formal drawings to replace the informal drawings previously provided. No new matter is added. These drawings already contain changes previously entered into the case.

REMARKS

The typographical problems in previous claims 43 and 71 have been corrected in the newly presented claims.

The 35 U.S.C. §112 problems noted in previous claims 35, 49 and 63 are corrected in the newly presented claims.

The Examiner rejected claims 29, 31, 42, 43, 45, 56, 57, 59, 70, and 71 under 35 U.S.C. §102 as anticipated by Frunder.

Claims 41, 55, and 69 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over Frunder in view of Heinzl.

Claims 30, 32-33, 44, 46-47, 58, and 60-61 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over Frunder in view of Kuroki.

Claims 34-35, 48-49, and 62-63 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over Frunder in view of Kuroki.

Claims 36-37, 50-51, and 64-65 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over Frunder in view of Kuroki further in view of Miyagawa.

Claims 38, 52, and 66 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over Frunder in view of Kuroki further in view of Miyagawa further in view of Doy.

The newly presented claims distinguish over Frunder and the secondary references for the following reasons.

First, it is noted that a preferred embodiment of the invention of claims 72-85 is shown in Fig. 1. A preferred embodiment of the invention of claims 86-97 is shown in Fig. 3. A preferred embodiment of the invention of claims 98-111 is shown in Fig. 4. A preferred embodiment of the invention as set forth in claims 112-126 is shown in Figs. 6-8.

Independent method claim 72 distinguishes over Frunder for the following reasons. Claim 72 recites covering the surface of a print carrier with a wetting-aiding surfactant layer, then covering the surfactant layer with a fountain solution layer which is one of ink-repelling and ink-attracting, and then structuring. In Figure 3 of Frunder, a liquid application station 33 applies a liquid 35 onto the intermediate carrier 10. This creates a liquid film which is oleophilic or hydrophilic. This film is then selectively evaporated with a thermal writing beam B to produce a latent character image in the liquid film. The latent character image is then developed with a vapor condenser C in Figure 1 or by applying ink with an inking drum 37. The ink applied can either be water containing or oil containing so that ink is picked up only in conformity with the image pattern. The inked intermediate image is then transferred onto a recording medium 26. A cleaning station E follows transfer of the image to the recording medium 26.

In the above, there is no covering of the surface of the print carrier with a wetting-aiding surfactant layer where that surfactant layer is then covered with a fountain solution layer which is then structured. Thus claim 22 distinguishes. The secondary references were cited for the imaging control element structures and therefore do not teach the feature missing in Frunder.

Dependent claim 73 distinguishes at least for the reasons claim 72 distinguishes.

Independent device claim 74 distinguishes at least for the reasons claim 72 distinguishes. Dependent claims 75-85 distinguishes at least for the reasons claim 74 distinguishes.

Independent method claim 86 distinguishes at least by reciting providing a print carrier with a S_iO_2 coating on its surface, charging the S_iO_2 coating at the print

carrier surface with a water vapor and then drying the surface to form a S_iOH hydrophilic molecule structure layer, structuring the molecule structure layer, and then applying a fountain solution layer to create the ink-attracting and ink-repelling regions. None of this is present in Frunder who does not disclose any S_iO_2, the S_iOH layer, coating nor the other features recited above in claim 86.

Independent device claim 87 distinguishes at least for the reasons claim 86 distinguishes. Dependent claims 88-97 distinguish at least for the reasons claim 87 distinguishes.

Independent method claim 98 distinguishes at least by reciting covering a surface of a print carrier with a wetting-aiding surfactant layer, structuring that surfactant layer, covering the structured surfactant layer with a fountain solution layer to create said ink-attracting and ink-repelling regions, and then applying the ink. Frunder does not have any such surfactant layer which is structured. Thus claim 98 readily distinguishes.

Dependent claim 99 distinguishes at least for the reasons claim 98 distinguishes.

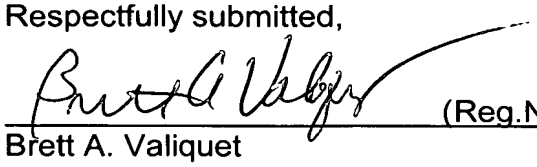
Independent device claim 100 distinguishes at least for the reasons claim 98 distinguishes. Dependent claims 101-111 distinguish at least for the reasons claim 100 distinguishes.

Independent method claim 112 distinguishes at least by reciting a corona treatment of a surface of the print carrier to create a hydrophilization layer via charging with free ions. A fountain solution layer is then applied and the fountain solution layer is structured. This clearly distinguishes over Frunder who has no corona treatment and no hydrophilization layer.

Independent device claim 113 distinguishes at least for the reasons noted with respect to independent claim 112. Dependent claims 114-126 distinguish at least for the reasons claim 113 distinguishes.

Allowance of the case is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on February 14, 2006.



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